

**THE POOR, COSTS AND  
ACCESS TO SCHOOLING IN  
RURAL GHANA:  
IMPLICATIONS FOR EFA AND  
REDUCTION IN  
INTERGENERATIONAL  
POVERTY.**

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# Introduction

- ❑ Survey of 536 rural households in Mfantseman District
- ❑ In-depth interview with 38 household heads

## **Key Question**

- ❑ Given the capitation fee free policy in public schools in Ghana, to what extent has it reduced direct cost of schooling and therefore made public schooling in rural areas a viable choice?
  - What factors determine rural households' spending on schooling?
  - What factors determine the economic burden of educational expenditure of rural households?

# Specification of the models

## □ Determinants of Educational expenditure:

1.  $\ln Ex_h = \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \varepsilon$  ---Equation 1

Where  $\beta_1 > 0$ ;  $\beta_2 > 0$ ;  $\beta_3 > 0$ ;  $\beta_4 > 0$  and  $\varepsilon$ =error term

## □ Determinants of Economic burden of educational expenditure:

2.  $\ln Ec_b = \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \beta_4 X_4 + \varepsilon$  ---Equation 2

Where  $\beta_1 > 0$ ;  $\beta_2 > 0$ ;  $\beta_3 > 0$ ;  $\beta_4 > 0$

# key findings

## Determinants of educational expenditure

- **Significant positive effects**
  - 1. household income- indication of high value placed on education
  - 2. occupation of household- own farm activities
  - 3. Number of children in school
  - 4. choice of private
- **Significant negative effect**
  - 1. Number of children in private school

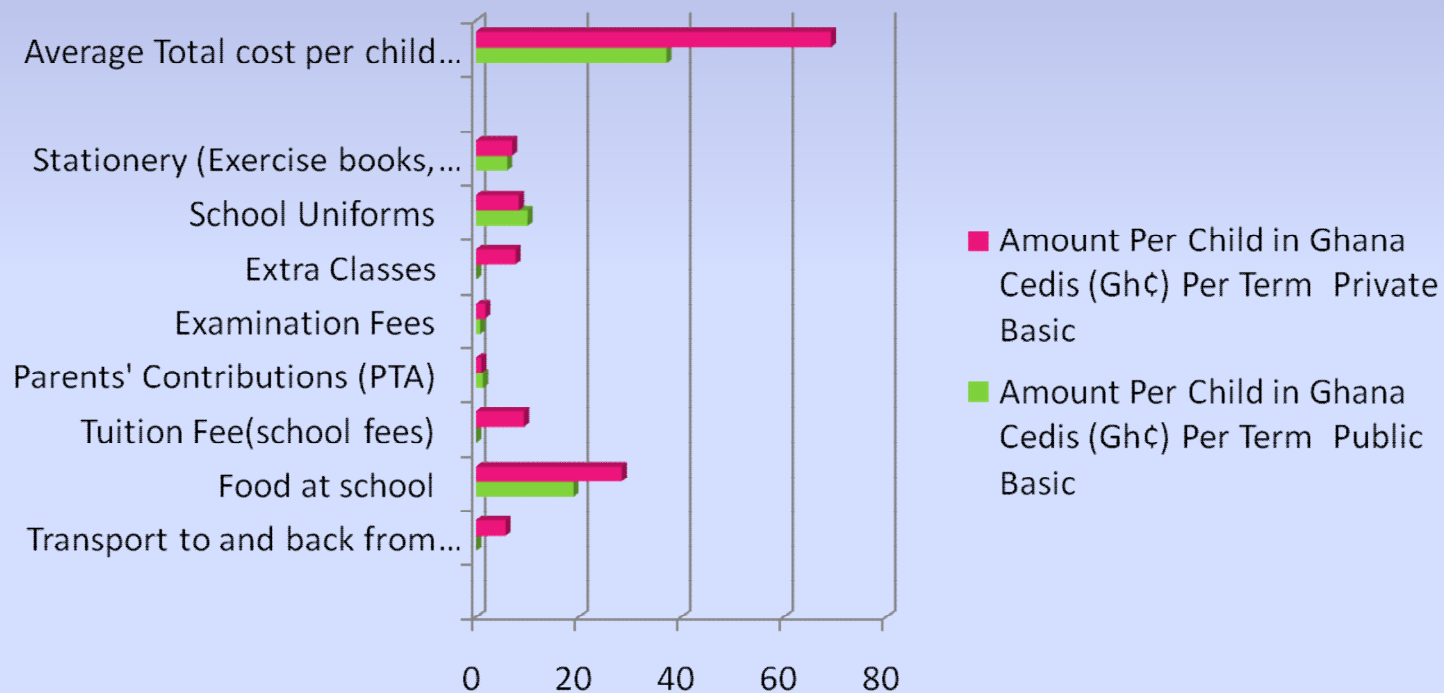
# key findings con'd

## Economic burden of educational expenditure

- **Significant positive effects**
  - 1. number of children in school
  - 2. choice of private school
- **Significant negative effects**
  - 1. social network reduced household economic burden by 93%
  - 2. household income-increased household income contributed to reduction in economic burden
  - 3. Number of children in private school

# key findings con't

- ❑ Food and uniform costs constitute the most significant components of household expenditure on education in both public and private schools.



# □ Has the capitation made schooling more accessible?

## Household views -1

‘.....yes, **but** now what we have to do is to give the child money for food and the child goes to school...’

## Household views -2

‘.... it has helped some parents to send their children to school.... It is true that the government has removed fees....but government will not give you exercise books and pens.... as I speak some parents have never sent their children to school..... probably there is no money to buy food for the child to go to school....’

## □ Capitation grant has impacted on the direct cost of schooling.

There is statistically significant difference in household direct cost of rural public and private schooling

SCHOOL TYPE	MEAN	MEAN DIFF	P-VALUES
Public A	4.877	4.827	
Public B	4.335	4.285	
Public C	4.661	4.611	
Private A	9.365	9.315	Sig at 5%
Private B	6.477	6.427	Sig at 5%
Private C	8.123	8.073	Sig at 5%
Private D	10.628	10.578	Sig at 5%



# Policy Issues

- ❑ Extending school feeding programme as a complement to capitation would improve demand for education particularly among the poor.
- ❑ Improving educational performance in public rural schools would encourage more households to choose the public schools over the private.
- ❑ Conditional Cash transfers to the poorest households would induce enrolment among children from such households.

**THANK YOU**